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VETERINARY ASSISTANT SURGEON,
NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,
P. O. BARANG, DISTT. CUTTACK.

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June 28, 1976.

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mals, Third (Revised) Edition, Bombay Natural
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3. WILD ASS IN THE LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH

I camped at Dhrangadhra on the 14th, 15th and 16th April for the census of wild life conducted by the Government of Gujarat, Department of Forest, as one of the observers. On 16th April, the day of the count, we enumerated 720 wild asses. On the 15th at sunrise I spotted a herd of nine wild asses near the village of Kuda which is at the edge of the Little Rann of Kutch and about 6 miles from the city of Dhrangadhra. This herd was led by a female wild ass and it was interesting to note that other animals followed her implicitly.

On close observation, I noticed that the

leader had stripes on both her shoulders of about 10 inch length. The colour of these two stripes was the same as the colour of the dorsal stripe which all wild asses have. The size as well as the general colour of this animal was the same as of the other wild asses in the herd. Even the size of the ears was the same as that of other animals. Actually, apart from these 2 stripes, the animal looked identical with the others.

I am given to understand that this animal may have been a crossbreed and not a genetic freak.

RANJIT VILAS PALACE,
WANKANER,
GUJARAT,
June 7, 1976.

YUVRAJ DIGVIJAY SINH